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Sweet Briar College Newsletter

f Sweet Briar College

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Perched between two television cameras, Professor George Lenz demonstrates the technique of recording lectures on video tape. He has modified an impersonal technique into a means of spending more time with his students. It is one of the ways in which Sweet Briar is making efficient use of its faculty to the greatest advantage of its students.

Prime Time Professor And TV Physics

Professor George Lenz has doubled himself for the benefit of his physics students at Sweet Briar College.

Through the use of a video-tape recorder with monitor, two cameras, and a playback unit, the physics professor has recorded two courses more than he has time to teach this fall. The equipment was purchased with a College Science Improvement Program (COSIP) grant from the National Science Foundation.

He feels that by using these tapes he can give more individual time to his students when they need help with material that is conceptually more difficult.

Dr. Lenz is enthusiastic about using these video taped courses. He has already taped one in introductory calculus and another on advanced senior-level quantum mechanics.

"The function of these video tapes will be that of a problem machine and not a teaching machine as is so often found in larger universities," stated the professor.

The video courses are set up in the Keller-plan method used at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Each course consists of 16-18 units per semester to be scheduled by each student as she feels she is ready to move on. Exams will also be self-paced.

Over 100 courses in physics and psychology are currently in use by other colleges and universities based on the Keller-plan and have achieved great success.

"But the possibilities of use for the new video equipment are vast," explained Dr. Lenz. In addition to taping fundamental courses we can eventually tape visiting lecturers, programs, and discussion panels for classroom use."

Tapes made available to students in the library will, in effect, give them more classroom hours in a day, and the opportunity to develop a higher degree of proficiency in specialized areas.

Global Environment To Be Studied

Sweet Briar College has received a grant for International Environmental Studies from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington, D.C.

Milan E. Hapala, Carter Glass Professor of Government, will serve as project director for this interdisciplinary program which will draw on faculty from biology, psychology, government, history, English, chemistry, sociology, economics, and art.

The program will educate students on the nature of environmental problems on a global scale and increase their sensitivity to the interdependence of environmental issues and the resulting need for international control of the environment.

"We selected this goal because we believe that the major task facing today's world is the protection and improvement of man's environment," said a college spokesman, "and that the task will require political, educational and scientific efforts. Sweet Briar's participation in this task will enrich its own program and will be consistent with its current resources and interests."

The program will build on the existing major in International Affairs, adding a strong program in language training and a co-ordinate major in environmental studies. Two new courses are specified as well as a seminar for faculty and selected students, projects in independent studies appropriate to the focus of international environmental issues, and supportive training in the languages.

The spokesman continued, "We believe that we can strengthen inter-

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The last voyage of the S. S. France from New York City to France carried nine Sweet Briar students participating in the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France Program. Pictured from left to right are Barbara E. Foley, of Pennsylvania, Deborah L. Mutch, of New Jersey, Katherine O. Mikell, of N. Carolina, Susan K. Elzinga, of France, Catherine S. Catlett, of Maryland, Nitza Robles, and Catherine J. Barrier of N. Carolina. Not pictured are Amy E. Troxell of N. Jersey and A. Peyton White of Florida. All of the girls are members of the class of 1976. One hundred and twenty-two students, representing 48 colleges and universities across the country, are participating in the 27th year of Sweet Briar's Junior Year in France program.

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national understanding at Sweet Briar College by focusing our resources and energies on a program in international environmental problems. The fact that our planet is in danger is a challenge as well as an opportunity to devise new approaches to international education. Environmental concerns transcend parochial and national boundaries and loyalties and thus constitute, logically and naturally, the core of the proposed program in international environmental studies at Sweet Briar College."

Assistant project director is Jane C. Belcher, professor of ecology, and project co-ordinator is environmental studies professor Langley Wood.

Gifts At All-Time High

Sweet Briar College has just completed the largest fund-raising year in its history during which more than $2.7 million was donated to the college. The figure represents actual cash received during the period July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974 and includes no outstanding pledges.

Previously, the most Sweet Briar had raised in a single year was $1.6 million during it's 50th anniversary nearly 25 years ago.

Of the total, $447,889 goes toward current programs, restricted and unrestricted, and $2,244,733 for capital purposes including endowment, buildings and equipment. Sweet Briar has the largest endowment of any woman's college in Virginia.

"Sweet Briar is very grateful to the alumnae, parents and friends who have made this exciting report possible," said Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, director of college development.

She added that "42 per cent of the alumnae made gifts last year which totaled $1.5 million and that $255,000 of that amount was derived from the Sweet Briar Alumnae Fund. This represents a 6 per cent increase over the previous year in terms of the number of alumnae making gifts."

The Board of Directors and Overseers of the college contributed $175,000 and parents added another $197,000 in current and capital gifts.

The largest single gift during the period was a bequest from Edward T. and Cornelia Wailes totaling $1.6 million. Mrs. Wailes was an alumna of Sweet Briar.

In addition, foundations and corporations contributed $430,000, and $82,000 was received through the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges.

More than 4,200 donors made gifts to Sweet Briar College during the fiscal year.

Dr. Blair Named Dean

Dr. Barbara A. Blair has been appointed dean at Sweet Briar College. She will serve as both dean of faculty and dean of studies. Dr. Blair succeeds Catherine S. Sims whose resignation became effective September first.

Dr. Blair has been at Sweet Briar twelve years. She received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, all in chemistry.

She spent five years in research working with the medical schools of the University of Virginia and the University of Buffalo as well as serving as a memorial hospital fellow at the University of Tennessee and as a laboratory analyst for Union Carbide, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

After two years as assistant professor in chemistry at Wilson (Penn.) College, Dr. Blair came to Sweet Briar as associate professor of chemistry. In 1968-69 she served as a lecturer at Women's Christian College in Madras, India. Returning to Sweet Briar she became part-time assistant dean in addition to her teaching.

Dr. Blair has several scientific publications to her credit as well as memberships with the American Associations for Higher Education, for the Advancement of Science, of University Administrators, of University Professors, and of University Women. She is also a member of the American Conference of Academic Deans, the American Chemical Society, the Association of Women in Science, the Association for General and Liberal Studies, the National Associations for Foreign Student Affairs and for Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors, the New York Academy of Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma XI, the Middle Atlantic Association of Liberal Arts Chemistry Teachers, and the Virginia Academy of Science.

She has held office in the Sweet Briar branch of the American Association of University Women, the Theta chapter of Virginia, Phi Beta Kappa, and the Virginia Blue Ridge section, American Chemical Society.

Dr. Blair has been involved with a wide variety of committees while at Sweet Briar including the committees for admissions, financial aid, church and chapel, college council, campus chest, advisory board, faculty research, student eligibility, faculty advisory subcommittee, as well as serving as faculty marshall, advisor to freshmen, premedical sciences advisor, and serving on the self-study committee for the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

Upon her appointment, President Harold B. Wl.iteman, Jr., stated, "We are most fortunate that Dean Blair will stay in the dean's office, now on a full-time basis. As we improve other aspects of life at Sweet Briar, nothing is as effective as increased quality of our academic life."

Last May, sixty-four years after her own commencement with Sweet Briar's first graduating class in 1910, Eugenia Griffen Burnett (left) returned with her daughter, Judith Burnett Halsey (center) of the Sweet Briar class of '47, for the graduation of her granddaughter, Mary Shaw Halsey (right). The three, all from Richmond, Virginia, struck this happy pose shortly before the outdoor graduation ceremony. Another daughter of Mrs. Burnett, Eugenia Affel of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was a member of the class of '42. In keeping with their family tradition of Sweet Briar, Mrs. Burnett was the first alumna representative on the Board of Directors and Mrs. Halsey is an active member of the Alumnae Council.

Freshmen Are Largest Class

Classes began this fall with the largest freshman class in several years. Numbering 250, it is 18% larger than last year's class. In addition, 17 new upperclassmen have enrolled for the 1974-75 academic year.

Mrs. Thomas Baldwin, director of admissions, has noted that the academic strength of Sweet Briar applicants remains very high, a factor quite evident in the freshman class which contains three National Merit Scholarship finalists. The new students are almost evenly divided between public and private secondary schools and they were certain of their desire to attend Sweet Briar. Two-thirds listed it as their first choice and more than 25 per cent did not even apply to another college.

Mrs. Baldwin is reluctant to characterize the freshmen as a class, but she indicated that they are serious about college and are concerned about the preparation which college can provide.

Sweet Briar continues to draw its students from a wide geographical range encompassing 40 states, the District of Columbia, Brazil, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and Turkey.

Education Program Certified by State Board

President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr. has announced that the Sweet Briar education program has been approved by the Virginia State Board of Education.

The approval specifically covers elementary education through the seventh grade and specialized subjects at the secondary level including English, French, Spanish, Latin, history and social science, history, economics, government, sociology, mathematics, biology, chemistry, general science, and physics.

A student completing her major in education at Sweet Briar may be issued an appropriate certificate by the Board of Education when her application for certification is supported by an official transcript and letter of recommendation from Sweet Briar.

The Virginia State Board of Education certification has reciprocity in over thirty states. In addition, Sweet Briar education students are earning the Virginia Collegiate Professional Certificate by student teaching in the area school systems as well as working at the nursery school and kindergarten on campus.

Student Affairs Under John Rice

John T. Rice has been named dean of student affairs effective September 1, according to President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr.

His duties will cover the broad range of non-academic areas within the college with the assistant dean of student affairs, college physician, consulting psychiatrist, and director of career counseling reporting to him.

The merger is looked upon as the natural outgrowth of a pattern of increasing emphasis on student life. Rice pointed out that "this college believes it has a responsibility for the emotional and physical as well as intellectual development of its students. This is one of the pluses of a residential college and I am convinced that it is here that Sweet Briar can make a special contribution," he said.

The Richmond native attended St. Christopher's School and went on to V.P.I. where he graduated with honors in sociology and was president of the Class of 1961. He earned his master's in sociology at the University of Tennessee.

Before going to Sweet Briar in 1972, he was headmaster of St. Anne's-Belfield School following one year as vice president of Florida Junior College at Jacksonville. From 1965-69 he was assistant professor of sociology at Madison College and named as the first dean of men at the college in 1966.

He is on the vestry of the Ascension Episcopal Church in Amherst, vice president of the board of Amherst Academy, vice president of the board of Family Service of Central Virginia, Inc., and vice president of the Amherst Rotary Club.

Europe On $30,000 A Year

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has made a special $30,000 grant to the college in support of its European civilization program under the direction of Dr. Robert P. Gilpin, assistant professor of history.

Dr. Gilpin applied for the grant after concluding that numerous "continental" studies such as Asian studies, African studies, and American studies were receiving much attention and funding by various agencies, while the more traditional European civilization courses were being overlooked.

The application was approved and Ronald Berman, chairman of NEH, said when informing Dr. Gilpin of the grant, "We look forward to the significant contribution this project may make to the humanities."

"The program is designed," Dr. Gilpin explained, "to provide the Sweet Briar student with a foundation in the humanities and with a structure which will strengthen and gird her college education.

"Through the vehicle of European civilization, the program begins with broad interdisciplinary studies involving all humanities at the introductory level," the young professor continued, "focusing on a particular historical moment of the developmental process in an attempt to show the integration of the humanities in the macrocosm of European culture."

The broad program will make use of the wide variety of Sweet Briar's own courses in the sophomore and junior years and conclude with interdisciplinary colloquia which concentrate on a particular theme in European civilization.

Beard Honored At Conference

Dr. Belle Boone Beard, professor emeritus of sociology at Sweet Briar College, is the first woman ever presented with the key to the city of Birmingham, Alabama. The presentation followed a talk she gave there recently to an assembly for senior citizens.

The assembly, "62 Plus: A New Beginning," brought 300 persons, 62 years old or older, together in what is believed to be the largest public gathering of that age group in Birmingham's history. Several experts spoke on topics pertinent to the senior citizen.

Dr. Beard spoke on "Who's Afraid of Aging." In her talk she cited several examples of active people over 100 years old based on her famous studies of centenarians.

The author of more than 50 papers on gerontology, Dr. Beard is a frequent lecturer in this country and abroad. She has participated in many international conferences on gerontology and is considered an authority on centenarians.

Dean Blair will stay in the dean's department, Dr. Beard taught at Sweet Briar College for 32 years. In 1963 she went to the Social Science Research Institute, University of Georgia, where she was research professor and became a member of the Council on Gerontology. Since that time she has also served as research professor associated with the Lynchburg College Research Center. She fully retired in 1970 making her home in the Sweet Briar community.

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Campus Notes

Sweet Briar faculty members have been engaged in a broad range of activities in recent months, particularly as the summer freed hours and days normally devoted to their students. Biology professor and ornithologist, **Ernest P. Edwards,** attended the International Ornithological Congress and International Council for Bird Preservation world meetings at Canberra, Australia in August in addition to teaching two short courses in ornithology at Cornell University in the summer.

Dr. **Frank C. DeSua,** Charles A. Dana Professor of Mathematics at Sweet Briar College, worked with Globe-Union, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisc., one of the country's largest manufacturers of lead-acid batteries. He developed mathematical models of the electrolytic action of such batteries and ran computer simulations with the aim of reducing corrosion.

Milan E. Hapala, Carter Glass Professor of Government, was one of 16 participants selected to attend a special seminar in Europe on "European Integration and European-American Relations."

Dr. **William Trausneck,** associate professor of education, has been named director of audio-visual services at Sweet Briar College.

Miss **Aileen Laing,** assistant professor of art history, received the Mednick Memorial Trust grant to continue her work on the Apocalypse Manuscripts in Paris and Great Britain.

Michael D. Richards, associate professor of history and chairman of the department, taught a graduate-level course in Russian history at the University of Virginia during the summer while working on the completion of an essay on revolution in the 20th century to be published by Forum Press. He did an historical book review for the *Journal of Social History* and continued work on his biography of Joseph Stalin to be published by Barron's Educational Series.

William E. Smart, assistant professor of English, taught a course in film-making to teachers from the Campbell County (Va.) school system in August.

Miss **Byrd W. Stone,** assistant professor of education and director of the Sweet Briar nursery school, participated in a Madison College workshop on "Developing the Outdoor Learning Environment for Children."

Dr. **Lee Piepho,** assistant professor of English at Sweet Briar College, was invited to participate in the International Robert Herrick Memorial Conference this month in Dearborn, Mich.

Dr. Piepho, an authority on Herrick, delivered a paper entitled " 'Times Trans-shifting' in the Poetry of Robert Herrick." In it, he examined the handling of classical literature and culture in a collection of verses called "Hesperides" and dealt extensively with "To Live Merrily and to Trust to Good Verses" and "His Age."

Miss **Maria Z. Embeita,** Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish, delivered a paper, "La Celestina, Work of the Renaissance," at the First International Congress of "La Celestina" in Madrid, Spain. The paper will be published in *Anales del Congreso de La Celestina.* She delivered another paper, "Literature in Pictorial Art" at a meeting of the European Association of Professors of Spanish at the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain. It will appear in the *Boletin de la Asociacion Europea de Profesores de Espanol.*

Miss **Ruth Firm,** professor of art history, attended the Winterthur Museum Summer Institute in Winterthur, Delaware.

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